

October 16, 2009

## **Obama using L.A. green model**

*The Los Angeles Times - October 6*

President Obama ordered federal agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cut energy use, save water and recycle more. The order, similar to Los Angeles' program, calls for a 30% cut in vehicle fuel use by 2020, a 50% increase in recycling by 2015 and the implementation of high-efficiency building codes.

## **Green Building Focus**

### **Study: green buildings and productivity**

*Thomson Reuters - October 8*

A study, authored jointly by real estate professionals and academic researchers, finds that people who work in green buildings are more productive and call in sick less often than employees who work in conventional buildings.

### **Report: some LEED certified buildings use more energy**

*Construction Week Online - October 8*

About 28% to 35% of LEED-certified buildings use more energy than conventional buildings. The National Research Council of Canada's Institute for Research in Construction study also found that the measured energy performance of LEED buildings had little correlation with the certification level of the building, or the number of energy credits achieved by the building at design time.

## **Trend: solar-powered LED lighting**

*The Examiner - October 2*

Solar-powered light emitting diode (LED) fixtures have the following advantages: reduced bulbs changes, scheduled maintenance every five years or more, up to 70% more [energy efficiency](#), vivid saturated colors, less susceptibility to extreme temperatures and the elimination of [utility](#) fees for illuminating outdoor areas with solar powered LED fixtures.

## **Expert says AC maintenance key to green building**

*Construction Week Online - October 7*

Changing the filters and cleaning the vents of the cooling systems could be one of the best ways to keep the equipment running at peak efficiency and provide key green results.

## **Website trains green building professionals**

*Eco Home Magazine - October 6*

A website from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) provides free video-based educational courses and case studies on the building of affordable green housing. The Affordable Green Academy features 10 educational tracks with topics including foundations, walls and windows, roofs and attics, and environmentally responsible materials.

## **The cost/benefits of green building**

*Medical Tourism Magazine - October 1*

A review of the overall costs and the related benefits of green building while recognizing the rapid changes in the industry based on new tools and techniques.

## **City takes direct control of incentives for LEED buildings**

*The Miami Herald - October 10*

The Aventura City Commission recently voted to take direct control over how incentives are given out to developers who build LEED certified green buildings. Now, the Commission will decide on a case-by-case basis the increase in size of a building or lot coverage due to the building's design being LEED-certified.

## **Some LEED buildings miss Energy Star label**

*GOOD Magazine - October 12*

The average LEED building does not qualify for an Energy Star label, according to GOOD Magazine. Because LEED buildings are certified in design, once built, they are sometimes not energy efficient in operation.

### **Notable green building projects...**

#### **Motel 6's new green direction**

*Hotel World Network - October 12*

The greenest Motel 6 yet opened in Northlake, Texas, across from Texas Motor Speedway. This is the first newly-built Motel 6 'Phoenix' prototype in the U.S., which focuses on efficiency and simplicity.

#### **Collier Center LEED certified in Arizona**

*Phoenix Business Journal - October 7*

The Collier Center has become the first privately owned, multi-tenant structure in Arizona to receive USGBC-EBOM certification. The 2000 structure met the certification in six categories, including a 30% energy reduction for the first six months of 2009 compared with 2008.

#### **Science Center earns LEED silver**

*The A to Z of Building - October 12*

The University City Science Center in Philadelphia earned LEED Silver with a 35,000-square-foot green roof, maximum day-lighting for all tenants, recycled content in construction materials, low VOC (volatile organic compounds) construction, and water-efficient landscaping.

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#### Events

Our attorneys speak at many conferences and seminars on green building topics.

**Bryan Jackson's** list of recent speaking engagements can be found [here](#).

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### **Renewable Energy Update**

Allen Matkins has a **NEW** free weekly publication, which is designed for readers who are trying to stay abreast of renewable energy news (including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass).

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